



UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

Hands on Plant Science Activity Volunteer

Division Assignment: Public Programs

Reports to:

- Lee Coykendall, Children's Education Specialist
- Maura Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator

Purpose: To support the USBG mission of demonstrating the aesthetic, cultural, economic, ecological and therapeutic importance of plants to the well-being of humankind by connecting our youngest visitors to the magic of the plant world through informal and formal learning.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Create a welcoming, positive experience for our visitors
- Support and lead hands on plant science focused activities
- Enthusiastically and accurately communicate information to children about specific topics (e.g., soil, seed dispersal, pollination, plant parts, etc.)
- Create and maintain hands on activity materials.
- Record and report the number of visitor encounters.

Qualifications:

- Interest and comfort in serving a younger audience
- Ability to be courteous, respectful and patient with visitors
- Good oral communication skills
- Cooperative nature, including the ability to accept instruction and correction
- Ability to adapt quickly to changing circumstances
- Professional manner and appearance
- Ability to work in an outdoor environment

Training Provided:

- Onsite training with the Children's Education Specialist
- Access to interpretive and hands-on activity materials for reference
- Shadowing current volunteers

Time Commitment:

- On average, 2 hour shifts preferred; scheduled based on volunteer's availability
- Weekday and weekend shifts available
- 75 hours yearly with participation in at least one large event

Benefits:

- Opportunities to participate in continuing education at the Garden
- Participation in horticulture in-service training programs offered to volunteers in Washington D.C. area
- Participation in USBG public programs for free or at reduced rates on a space-available basis
- Participation in USBG-sponsored volunteer appreciation events
- USBG Volunteer newsletter